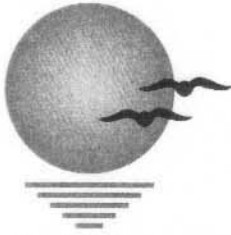


Appendix B – Agency Coordination



BARRY A. VITTOR & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & CONSULTING

8060 Cottage Hill Road

Mobile, Alabama 36695

Phone (251) 633-6100

Fax (251) 633-6738

April 1, 2010

Ms. Linda Brown
Mississippi Coastal Team Leader
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Regulatory Division
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, AL 36628-0001

**Re: Request for Project Review – Marine Education Center Redevelopment Project,
Jackson County, Mississippi**

Dear Ms. Brown:

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program being administered in response to the Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1604-DR-MS. The funding will be used to construct a new Marine Education Center (MEC).

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's storm surge severely damaged the original Marine Education Center and surrounding area near Cadet Point in Biloxi, MS. The Center was located in a floodplain designated zone VE and was within the surge inundation zone, receiving up to 25 feet of water.

The proposed location for the new MEC is the USM Cedar Point teaching site, located south of Highway 90 in Ocean Springs, MS (see Figure 1). The new facility would be constructed in uplands outside the 100-year floodplain (Zone AE) (Figure 2).

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- Construct a 36,000 sq ft MEC and access road in Phase I
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- Construct a parking area

Barry A. Vittor & Associates will produce an environmental assessment (EA) for this proposed redevelopment project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, we request that your agency review its jurisdiction within the project area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by telephone at 251.633.6100 or electronic mail at tthibaut@bvaenviro.com.

Sincerely,

Tim Thibaut
Senior Program Manager



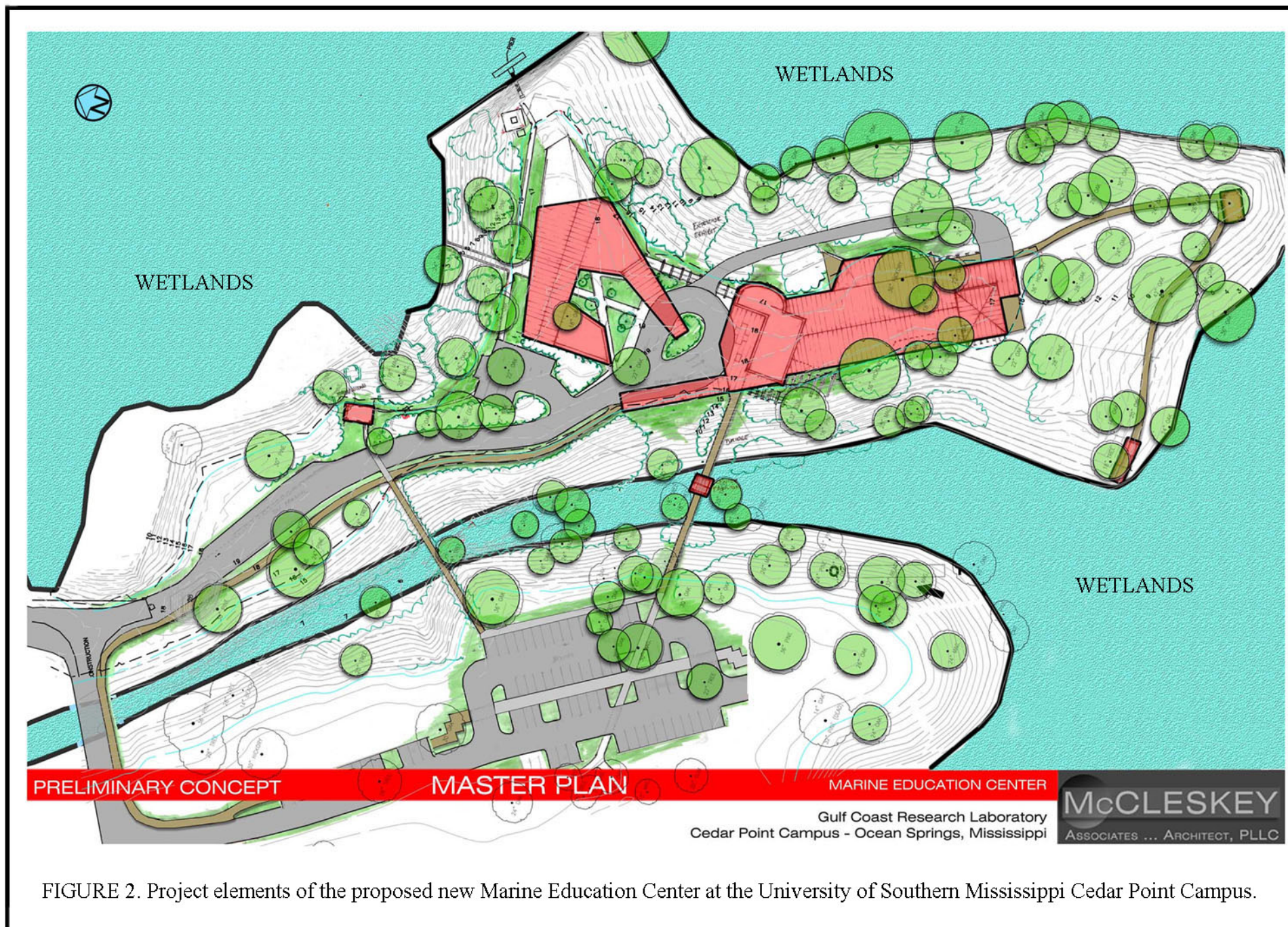


FIGURE 2. Project elements of the proposed new Marine Education Center at the University of Southern Mississippi Cedar Point Campus.

From: "Zebryk, Tad M SAM" <Tad.M.Zebryk@usace.army.mil>
Subject: **RE: USM Cedar Point project (SAM-2010-00541-TMZ)**
Date: May 12, 2010 8:01:55 AM CDT
To: "Tim Thibaut" <tthibaut@bvaenviro.com>
Cc: "Dr. Barry A. Vittor" <bvittor@bvaenviro.com>

Tim,

Based on the information you submitted pertaining to USACE File Number SAM-2010-541-TMZ, University of Southern Mississippi, Cedar Point Campus, the project does not appear to require a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. As you indicate in your email, the road spanning the wetland north of the proposed structure already exists, and the new walkways do not require a permit, being pile-supported structures over Section 404 wetlands with no associated fill. No other fill discharges into jurisdictional wetlands are proposed.

Thanks for providing the opportunity to comment,

Tad M. Zebryk
USACE, Mobile District
Regulatory Division, Coastal Branch

-----Original Message-----

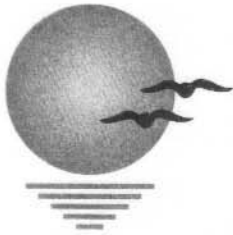
From: Tim Thibaut [mailto:tthibaut@bvaenviro.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 5:58 AM
To: Zebryk, Tad M SAM
Subject: USM Cedar Point project (SAM-2010-00541-TMZ)

Tad,

The attachment has the wetland delineation information for the USM Cedar Point campus site, with the current project scope superimposed on the wetland map. For the plan I sent with the comment request letter, the road shown spanning the wetland north of the proposed structure already exists. There are actually two new bridges on the campus spanning wetland drains, but those structures are not related to the currently proposed project.

Best regards,
Tim

Tim Thibaut
Senior Program Manager
Barry A. Vittor & Associates, Inc.
251-633-6100
251-605-2880 cell
<http://www.bvaenviro.com>



BARRY A. VITTOR & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & CONSULTING

8060 Cottage Hill Road

Mobile, Alabama 36695

Phone (251) 633-6100

Fax (251) 633-6738

April 1, 2010

Ms. Robin Zantow
Administrative Assistant
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Wetlands Permitting
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530

**Re: Request for Project Review – Marine Education Center Redevelopment Project,
Jackson County, Mississippi**

Dear Ms. Zantow:

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program being administered in response to the Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1604-DR-MS. The funding will be used to construct a new Marine Education Center (MEC).

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's storm surge severely damaged the original Marine Education Center and surrounding area near Cadet Point in Biloxi, MS. The Center was located in a floodplain designated zone VE and was within the surge inundation zone, receiving up to 25 feet of water.

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Barry A. Vittor & Associates will produce an environmental assessment (EA) for this proposed redevelopment project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, we request that your agency review its jurisdiction within the project area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by telephone at 251.633.6100 or electronic mail at tthibaut@bvaenviro.com.

Sincerely,

Tim Thibaut
Senior Program Manager



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

May 18, 2010

Tim Thibaut
Barry A. Vittor and Associates, Inc.
8060 Cottage Hill Road
Mobile, AL 36695

RE: DMR-100416

Dear Mr. Thibaut:

The Department of Marine Resources in cooperation with other state agencies is responsible under the Mississippi Coastal Program (MCP) for managing the coastal resources of Mississippi. Proposed activities in the coastal area are reviewed to insure that the activities are in compliance with the MCP.

The Department has received a request to review a proposal for the University of Southern Mississippi to construct an education center in Ocean Springs, Jackson County, Mississippi. The Department has no objections provided there are no direct or indirect impacts to coastal wetlands and no coastal program agency objects to the proposal. If wetland impacts are anticipated, an application should be submitted to this office for review. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your project.

For more information, questions concerning this correspondence, or to obtain an application packet, contact James Davis with the Bureau of Wetlands Permitting at (228) 523-4115 or james.davis@dmr.ms.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willa J. Brantley".

Willa J. Brantley
Bureau Director, Wetlands Permitting

WJB/jdd



BARRY A. VITTOR & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & CONSULTING

8060 Cottage Hill Road

Mobile, Alabama 36695

Phone (251) 633-6100

Fax (251) 633-6738

April 1, 2010

Ms. Michelle Vinson
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Pollution Control, Environmental Permits Division
P.O. Box 2261
Jackson, MS 39289-0385

**Re: Request for Project Review – Marine Education Center Redevelopment Project,
Jackson County, Mississippi**

Dear Ms. Vinson:

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program being administered in response to the Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1604-DR-MS. The funding will be used to construct a new Marine Education Center (MEC).

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's storm surge severely damaged the original Marine Education Center and surrounding area near Cadet Point in Biloxi, MS. The Center was located in a floodplain designated zone VE and was within the surge inundation zone, receiving up to 25 feet of water.

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Sincerely,

Tim Thibaut
Senior Program Manager



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

HALEY BARBOUR

GOVERNOR

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

TRUDY D. FISHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 8, 2010

Mr. Tim Thibaut, Senior Project Manager
BARRY A. VITTOR & ASSOCIATES, INC.
8060 Cottage Hill Road
Mobile, AL 36695

Re: Environmental Review – Marine Education Center redevelopment Project
Jackson County (Biloxi), MS

Dear Mr. Thibaut:

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has received your "Request for Environmental Assessment Statutory-Regulatory Compliance" determination request for Hazardous, Toxic, or Radioactive Materials & Substances 24 CFR 58.5(i)(2) the proposed construction of a new Marine Education Center in the City of Biloxi in Jackson County. Enclosed are copies of MDEQ's CERCLA/Uncontrolled Sites File List and a map that identifies underground storage tanks, brownfield sites, as well as uncontrolled sites within the Jackson County that have potential contamination issues related to them. There are, however, many abandoned sites around the State that we are not aware of. An environmental site assessment may be necessary to evaluate potential recognized environmental conditions within the proposed project. If recognized environmental conditions are encountered, please contact me at 601-961-5654.

You can obtain additional information by accessing the following web addresses:

<http://www.epa.gov/enviro> (RCRA report and others)

<http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/default.aspx>

<http://muster.deq.state.ms.us/webreportapplication/ustsearchwf.aspx>

This project may be eligible for environmental site assessment assistance from MDEQ through the Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA) Program. (See attachment). Should you desire additional information on the application process for the TBA, please contact LaVonne McGee at (601) 961-5063.

Sincerely,

Jere "Trey" Hess, P.E.
Brownfield Coordinator

Enclosures

OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

POST OFFICE BOX 2261 • JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39225-2261 • TEL: (601) 961-5171 • FAX: (601) 354-6612 • www.deq.state.ms.us

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



BARRY A. VITTOR & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & CONSULTING

8060 Cottage Hill Road

Mobile, Alabama 36695

Phone (251) 633-6100

Fax (251) 633-6738

April 1, 2010

Jim Woodrick
Review and Compliance Officer
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
P.O. Box 571
Jackson Mississippi 39205-0571

Dear Mr. Woodrick:

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program being administered in response to the Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1604-DR-MS. The funding will be used to construct a new Marine Education Center (MEC).

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Mann & Associates performed a cultural resources assessment at the Cedar Point teaching site in January 1995. Their cultural resource assessment (CRA) report is attached. The existing archaeological site files located at the Mississippi Department of History in Jackson were consulted as part of the CRA. No properties listed on or being considered for listing on or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places were located within the survey area. In addition to the State File search, a pedestrian survey was conducted within the study area limits. A previously unidentified archaeological site (22-Ja-704) was located during the course of the survey, and is located near the western portion of the proposed MEC project site. While it appears that site 22-Ja-704 is not eligible for the National Register, the CRA concluded that an

archaeologist should be present to monitor for subsurface features that may be uncovered during any work at the site.

Barry A. Vittor & Associates will produce an environmental assessment (EA) for this proposed redevelopment project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, we request that your agency review its jurisdiction within the project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by telephone at 251.605.2880 or electronic mail at tthibaut@bvaenviro.com.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tim Thibaut".

Tim Thibaut

Senior Program Manager



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Ken P'Pool, director • Jim Woodrick, acting director
PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571
601-576-6940 • Fax 601-576-6955
mdah.state.ms.us

April 9, 2010

Tim Thibaut
Senior Program Manager
Barry A. Vittor & Associates, Inc.
8060 Cottage Hill Road
Mobile, Alabama 36695

RE: Proposed construction of new Marine Education Center at USM Cedar Point campus in Ocean Springs (FEMA-1604-DR-MS), MDAH Project Log #04-019-10, Jackson County

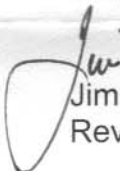
Dear Tim:

We have reviewed your request for a cultural resources assessment, received on April 5, 2010, for the above referenced project in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800. After reviewing the information provided, it is our determination that no cultural resources are likely to be affected. Therefore, we have no objection with the proposed undertaking.

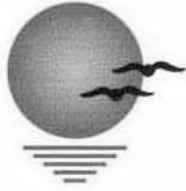
Should there be additional work in connection with the project, or any changes in the scope of work, please let us know in order that we may provide you with appropriate comments in compliance with the above referenced regulations.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (601) 576-6940.

Sincerely,


Jim Woodrick
Review and Compliance Officer

FOR: H.T. Holmes
State Historic Preservation Office



BARRY A. VITTOR & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & CONSULTING

8060 Cottage Hill Road

Mobile, Alabama 36695

Phone (251) 633-6100

Fax (251) 633-6738

April 1, 2010

Kenneth H. Carleton
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer/Archaeologist
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 6257
Choctaw, MS 39350

Dear Mr. Carleton:

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program being administered in response to the Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1604-DR-MS. The funding will be used to construct a new Marine Education Center (MEC).

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Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Thibaut". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" and last name "Thibaut" clearly distinguishable.

Tim Thibaut
Senior Program Manager



BARRY A. VITTOR & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & CONSULTING

8060 Cottage Hill Road

Mobile, Alabama 36695

Phone (251) 633-6100

Fax (251) 633-6738

April 1, 2010

Mr. Homer L. Wilkes
State Conservationist
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 W. Capitol Street
Suite 1321 Federal Bldg.
Jackson, MS 39269

**Re: Request for Project Review – Marine Education Center Redevelopment Project,
Jackson County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Wilkes:

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program being administered in response to the Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1604-DR-MS. The funding will be used to construct a new Marine Education Center (MEC).

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Sincerely,

Tim Thibaut
Senior Program Manager



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Suite 1321, Federal Building
100 West Capitol Street
Jackson, MS 39269

April 30, 2010

Tim Thibaut
Senior Program Manager
Barry A. Vittor & Associates, Inc.
8060 Cottage Hill Road
Mobile, AL 36695

Dear Mr. Thibaut:

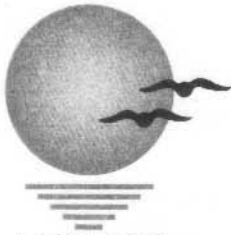
This is in response to your letter dated April 1, 2010 regarding the Request for Project Review – Marine Education Center Redevelopment Project in Jackson County, MS.

No FPPA determinations required on sites within city limits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delaney B. Johnson".

Delaney B. Johnson
State Soil Scientist



BARRY A. VITTOR & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & CONSULTING

8060 Cottage Hill Road

Mobile, Alabama 36695

Phone (251) 633-6100

Fax (251) 633-6738

April 1, 2010

Mr. Ray Aycock
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, MS 39213

Dear Mr. Aycock:

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program being administered in response to the Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1604-DR-MS. The funding will be used to construct a new Marine Education Center (MEC).

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's storm surge severely damaged the original Marine Education Center and surrounding area near Cadet Point in Biloxi, MS. The Center was located in a floodplain designated zone VE and was within the surge inundation zone, receiving up to 25 feet of water.

The proposed location for the new MEC is the USM Cedar Point teaching site, located south of Highway 90 in Ocean Springs, MS (see Figure 1). The teaching site is bounded to the north by Park Road, to the west by Gollott Road, and to the east and south by Davis Bayou. The new facility would be constructed in uplands outside the 100-year floodplain (Zone AE) (Figure 2).

The USM proposes to utilize FEMA funds to replace the 36,000 sq ft MEC and to extend the access road to the new MEC in Phase I. They then propose in Phase II to use Coastal Energy Impact Assistance Funds to enhance the new MEC, by constructing an additional 24,000 sq ft adjacent to the Phase I MEC and a parking area for the new facilities (Phase II). The project elements are:

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Barry A. Vittor & Associates, Inc. has inspected the proposed MEC location and surrounding area on multiple occasions since 1995, most recently on August 5, 2009. Uplands on the GCRL campus are sandy, dry soils. Nontidal, palustrine wetlands occur in narrow drainageways that are headwaters for small waterways draining the flat, sandy terrain. Flow is toward salt marsh habitat adjacent to Davis Bayou.

The MEC project site is wooded, and primarily supports a mix of hardwoods including live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), laurel oak (*Q. hemisphaerica*), white oak (*Q. alba*), and southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*). Adjacent drainageway wetlands support sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*), swamp bay (*Persea palustris*), swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*), and cinnamon fern

(*Osmunda cinnamomea*). Transitional species between uplands and wetlands include saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) and wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*).

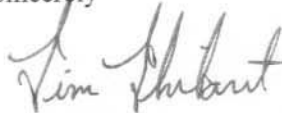
Most of the ESA species listed for Jackson County are unlikely to occur on the site or be affected by the proposed project. Target species for the most recent site inspection were gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) (*Picoides borealis*). A visual inspection was made for tracks, nests, burrows, or sightings of these species, which are protected under the ESA.

No RCW nest trees were found at the proposed project site. Though there are potential nest trees at the Cedar Point teaching site overall, the project site and adjacent area is generally not suitable as foraging habitat for RCW. No evidence of gopher tortoises or their burrows were found at the MEC project site. Significantly, vegetation on the project site lacks the grasses and forbs typically consumed by the tortoises.

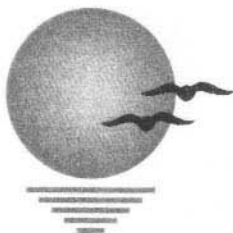
There are two known Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nests on the Cedar Point property, but both nests are more than 1,000 feet from the proposed MEC project site.

Vittor & Associates will produce an environmental assessment (EA) for this proposed redevelopment project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, we request that your agency review its jurisdiction within the project area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by telephone at 251.605.2880 or electronic mail at tthibaut@bvaenviro.com.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tim Thibaut", written in a cursive style.

Tim Thibaut
Senior Program Manager



BARRY A. VITTOR & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & CONSULTING

8060 Cottage Hill Road

Mobile, Alabama 36695

Phone (251) 633-6100

Fax (251) 633-6738

April 1, 2010

Mr. James D. Giattina

Director

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Water Management Division

Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center

61 Forsyth Street, SW

Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

**Re: Request for Project Review – Marine Education Center Redevelopment Project,
Jackson County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Giattina:

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program being administered in response to the Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1604-DR-MS. The funding will be used to construct a new Marine Education Center (MEC).

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- Construct a parking area

Barry A. Vittor & Associates will produce an environmental assessment (EA) for this proposed redevelopment project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, we request that your agency review its jurisdiction within the project area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by telephone at 251.633.6100 or electronic mail at tthibaut@bvaenviro.com.

Sincerely,

Tim Thibaut

Senior Program Manager



BARRY A. VITTOR & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & CONSULTING

8060 Cottage Hill Road

Mobile, Alabama 36695

Phone (251) 633-6100

Fax (251) 633-6738

April 1, 2010

Mr. Claiborne Barnwell
Chief
Mississippi Department of Transportation, Environmental Division
Administration Building
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850

**Re: Request for Project Review – Marine Education Center Redevelopment Project,
Jackson County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Barnwell:

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program being administered in response to the Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1604-DR-MS. The funding will be used to construct a new Marine Education Center (MEC).

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's storm surge severely damaged the original Marine Education Center and surrounding area near Cadet Point in Biloxi, MS. The Center was located in a floodplain designated zone VE and was within the surge inundation zone, receiving up to 25 feet of water.

The proposed location for the new MEC is the USM Cedar Point teaching site, located south of Highway 90 in Ocean Springs, MS (see Figure 1). The new facility would be constructed in uplands outside the 100-year floodplain (Zone AE) (Figure 2).

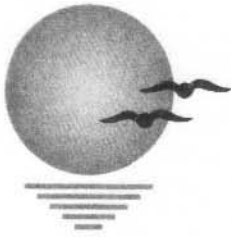
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Mobile, Alabama 36695

Phone (251) 633-6100

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April 1, 2010

Mr. Andy Prosser
Bureau Director
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
P.O. Box 1609
Jackson, MS 39215

**Re: Request for Project Review – Marine Education Center Redevelopment Project,
Jackson County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Prosser:

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program being administered in response to the Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1604-DR-MS. The funding will be used to construct a new Marine Education Center (MEC).

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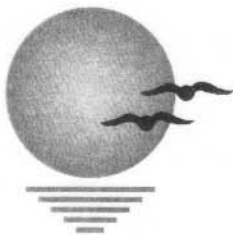
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April 1, 2010

Mr. Don Underwood
Executive Director
Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 23005
Jackson, MS 39225-3005

**Re: Request for Project Review – Marine Education Center Redevelopment Project,
Jackson County, Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Underwood:

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance under the Public Assistance (PA) Program being administered in response to the Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1604-DR-MS. The funding will be used to construct a new Marine Education Center (MEC).

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